

2021 Study of the United States Institutes for Student Leaders from Europe

Announcement

The U.S. Embassy in Ukraine is pleased to announce a competition for the 2021 Study of the United States Institutes for Student Leaders on the following three themes: Civic Engagement; Education and the Future of Work; and Entrepreneurship and Economic Development. The program will take place in early July through August 2021. The Institutes may be conducted as a traditional in-person programs at the host institutions in the United States. However, virtual program with all lectures and activities designed for online synchronous and asynchronous learning may be offered. A final decision on program viability and format will be made in spring 2021, contingent upon health, safety, and travel factors related to the pandemic. Institute hosts are the University of South Carolina, the University of Massachusetts, Boston, and the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga, respectively.

This program is sponsored by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State and will cover all participant costs, including program administration, travel, housing and subsistence, as well as book, cultural, and incidental allowances, if the program is in-person. If the program is conducted virtually, the costs associated with ensuring participants have on-line access will be covered.

Study of the U.S. Institutes (SUSIs) for Student Leaders are intensive short-term academic programs whose purpose is to provide groups of undergraduate student leaders with a deeper understanding of the United States while simultaneously enhancing their leadership skills. The Institutes will consist of a balanced series of seminar discussions, readings, group presentations and lectures. The coursework and classroom activities will be complemented by educational travel, site visits, leadership activities, and volunteer opportunities within the local community. Each Institute typically has 20 participants and includes an academic residency component and, if the program is conducted in-person, an integrated study tour. If it is possible to conduct the Institute remotely, participants will engage in the similar activities, but in a truncated virtual format from their home countries. During the academic residency, participants will also have the opportunity to engage in educational and cultural activities outside of the classroom (in-person or virtual).

Brief descriptions of each of the three institutes follow. Applications are available at the U.S. Embassy's website <https://ua.usembassy.gov/education-culture/current-programs-grants>

The deadline for receiving applications at the Public Affairs Section is midnight

January 18, 2021.

Institute Descriptions:

A. Study of the U.S. Institute for European Student Leaders on Civic Engagement, hosted by the University of South Carolina, will provide participants with an overview of how citizens have shaped U.S. history, government, and society both as individuals and groups. The academic program will define civic engagement, examine its development in the United States, and explore topics such as citizenship, community building, economic development, grassroots activism, media literacy, and volunteerism. The program will encourage students to develop innovative and practical plans to become engaged citizens in their own communities. If conducted in-person, the study tour will explore civic engagement through the unique perspective of different communities in the United States. Pending the University of South Carolina's technical capacity, the Institutes may conclude with a virtual closing forum where participants from the Institute will come together to network, discuss their action plans, and engage in conversations on relevant topics with U.S. Department of State officials.

B. The Study of the U.S. Institute on Education and the Future of Work, hosted by the University of Massachusetts-Boston, will explore how technology, the job economy, and skills based education are interconnected in the United States. This Institute was previously named the SUSI for Student Leaders on Youth, Education, and Closing the Skills Gap. The title has been updated to better reflect the Institute content. The Institute will expose participants to global issues in the context of the future of work by examining educational, social, and economic trends. Using an interdisciplinary approach, the academic program will examine the role of U.S. educational institutions, particularly community colleges, in preparing Americans with the skills needed to succeed in multiple industries and sectors including business, technology, science, higher education, the creative arts, and other fields. Topics will include, but are not limited to, communication, entrepreneurship, globalization and urbanization, innovation and technology, organizational development and management, skills development, and reskilling and retraining. The program will also provide opportunities for participants to engage with educational and industry leaders through site visits around the greater Boston metropolitan area. If conducted in-person, a study tour to another location will explore the theme from a different regional perspective. Pending the University of Massachusetts-Boston's technical capacity, the Institute may conclude with a virtual closing forum where participants from the Institute will come together to network, discuss their action plans, and engage in conversations on relevant topics with U.S. Department of State officials.

C. The Study of the U.S. Institute on Entrepreneurship and Economic Development hosted by the University of Tennessee, Chattanooga, will provide participants with an overview of entrepreneurial approaches by reviewing the development, history, challenges, and successes of U.S. entrepreneurial enterprises, including social enterprises, business leadership and women's economic empowerment, in the United States and globally. Topics will include, but are not limited to, business development in a global setting, diversity in the workforce, management strategies and techniques, and the relationship among businesses, governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Academic activities will be supplemented by opportunities to engage with the local community, including

meeting with local entrepreneurs, and, if conducted in-person, a study tour to another U.S. community. Pending the University of Tennessee, Chattanooga's technical capacity, the Institute may conclude with a virtual closing forum where participants from the Institute will come together to network, discuss their action plans, and engage in conversations on relevant topics with U.S. Department of State officials.

Candidate Description and Qualifications:

The candidates are expected to be highly motivated first through third year undergraduate students from colleges, universities, and other institutions of higher education, who demonstrate leadership through academic work, community involvement, and extracurricular activities. Their fields of study will be varied and may include the sciences, social sciences, humanities, education, business, and other professional fields. The ideal candidates should be from non-elite backgrounds, with little or no prior experience in the United States or elsewhere outside their home country, and should include historically underserved groups, indigenous groups, disadvantaged groups, individuals with disabilities, members of the LGBTI community, and ethnic minority communities.

Candidates nominated for this program will:

- be proficient in English;
- be interested in the Institute topic;
- be between 18 and 25 years of age;
- have at least one semester left of their undergraduate studies, and therefore be committed to return to their home universities following completion of the program;
- demonstrate strong leadership qualities and potential in their university and community activities;
- indicate a serious interest in learning about the United States;
- have a sustained high level of academic achievement, as indicated by grades, awards, and teacher recommendations;
- demonstrate commitment to community and extracurricular university activities;
- have little or no prior study or travel experience in the United States or elsewhere outside of their home country;
- be mature, responsible, independent, confident, open-minded, tolerant, thoughtful, and inquisitive;
- be willing and able to fully participate in an intensive academic program, community service, and educational travel, if program is conducted in-person; and,

-be comfortable with campus life, prepared to share living accommodations, and able to make adjustments to cultural and social practices different from those of their home country, if the program is conducted in-person.